(d) (i) The apprentices get monthly stipend during their training period.

(ii) The apprentices acquire skill for gainful wages or self employment

Keeping in view of the above, the career of wards of working classes get a clear direction for their future development.

Retrenchment of Workers from Rourkela Steel Plant

1892. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers retrenched from Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) the reasons why those workers have been thrown out employment;

(c) whether Government propose to provide them re-employment in those plants; and

(d) if not, the alternative employment scheme thought about retrenched workers of Rourkela Steel Plant in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) According to information received from the Government of Orissa, no worker in Rourkela Steel Plant has been retrenched.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Unemployment Problem

1893. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of unemployment upto 30th June, 1995 and what is expected increase by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan; State-wise; and

(b) the strategy made by Government to solve the unemployment problem in the country particularly in the State of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) Total unemployment in the country as on 30th June, 1995 has not been estimated. Unemployment as in March 1995 is estimated to be for the order of 18.7 million. The State-wise break-up of this estimate is not available. The principal elements of the employment strategy of the Eighth Plan are a geographically and cropwise diversified agricultural growth, expansion and diversification of the rural non farm sector, promotion of small and decentralised manufacturing sector expansion of infrastructure, housing and health and educational services faster growth of services and informal sector activities and greater flexibility in special employment programmes and their integration with sectoral development programmes. A continuation of the employment strategy of the Eighth Plan in the period 1997-2002 is expected to reduce unemployment to negligible levels by 2002.

Scope of adjudication by Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum

1894. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enlarge the scope of adjudication by the Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum by bringing under its purview disputes arising from health, medical services and share markets, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the recommendations made by the high power working committee set up by Government to suggest comprehensive amendments to the Consumer Disputes Redressal Act and of those which have been accepted/not accepted by Government or are still under consideration; and

(d) the number of cases at present pending with the District Consumer Forums (State-wise) and steps taken so far for their early settlement?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) On the recommendations of the Central Consumer Protection Council, the Government had constituted a High Powered Working Group to suggest suitable amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to make it more effective and purposeful. The Working Group, in its report, has recommended to bring under

its purview the disputes arising from health, medical services, share market, etc. It has also made various recommendations to enlarge the scope of the Act: to confer more powers on the consumer courts; to restrict appearance of laywers in these courts; and to bring the decision of the consumer courts under Article 323 B of the Constitution. The Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution has circulated the recommendations to various Ministries/ Departments for their comments.

(d) Based on the information received from the State Government/UT Administrations, a statement indicating the State-wise position of pending cases in the District Consumer Fora has been prepared and is annexed (*See* below). The Consumer protection Act, 1986 provides for setting up of additional District Fora depending upon the work load. The responsibility for setting up of additional District Fora lies exclusively with the State Governments. The Central Government has recently sanctioned Rs. 5 crores to the States/ UTs to strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Courts.

Statement

District Forums

States/UTs	Filed since inception	Disposed since inception	Pending cases	Period ending
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	66524	54331	12193	31/3/95
Arunachal Pradesh	60	56	4	31/12/94
Assam	2457	1074	1383	31/3/95
Bihar	18593	10370	8223	30/9/94
Goa	1310	791	519	31/3/95
Gujarat	29896	15751	14145	30/4/94
Haryana	27590	20033	7557	31/3/95
Himachal Pradesh	5495	4237	1248	31/12/94
Jammu & Kashmir	5019	4782	237	31/12/94
Karnataka	10773	6205	4568	30/9/94
Kerala	52812	42808	10004	31/12/94
Madhya Pradesh	28006	16613	11393	31/12/94
Maharashtra	48174	34663	13511	31/3/95
Manipur	506	505	1	31/12/94
Meghalaya	63	23	40	31/3/95
Mizoram	131	123	8	31/3/95
Nagaland	13	6	7	30/9/94
Orissa	12965	7644	5321	31/3/95
Punjab	10855	6996	3859	30/9/94
Rajasthan	57657	44714	12943	31/3/95
Sikkim	43	15	28	31/12/94
Tamil Nadu	27998	18620	9378	31/12/94
Tripura	595	431	164	31/12/94
Uttar Pradesh	91593	53159	38434	31/12/94
West Bengal	16503	3491	13012	30/9/94
Andaman & Nicobar	90	82	8	31/3/95
Chandigarh	6154	3266	2888	31/9/94
D&N Haveli	19	10	9	31/12/94
Daman & Diu	32	16	16	30/9/94
Delhi	27723	19799	8924	31/3/95
Lakshadweep	18	15	3	31/3/95
Pondicherry	831	656	175	31/12/94
Total	550488	370285	180203	

"Land Bank" concept for afforestation of Coalfields

1895. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the concept of "Land Bank" persue to simplify the process of compensatory afforestation for lands acquired for coal-fields;

(b) whether this has actually been implemented; and

(c) what has been the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The provisions of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 prescribe that for dereservation or diversion of forest land for non-forest uses, compensatory afforestation shall be done over an equivalent area of non forest land. The concept of "land bank" has been adopted to meet this requirement in regard to coal projects. According to available information, some of the coal producing States have